

### REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 to 12, 15, 17 to 22, 25 and 27 to 30 are pending in this application of which claims 1, 11 and 21 are the independent claims. Claims 6, 16 and 26 are cancelled without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 to 8, 11, 13 to 18, 21 and 23 to 28 are rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Pelissier et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,496,503 hereinafter "Pelissier") in view of Yip et al. (U.S. Patent Number 7,245,629 hereinafter "Yip").

The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 1. In particular, neither Pelissier nor Yip separately or in combination disclose or suggest at least that the capability discovery phase includes transmitting a capability request from the CE to the first one of the FEs and transmitting a topology request from the CE to the first one of the FEs (emphasis added).

Claims 11 and 21 have corresponding features to claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art should be withdrawn with respect to claims 11 and 21 for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 5, 15 and 25 are further distinguished from the cited art at least because none of the cited art separately or in combination disclose or suggest that executing a capability discovery phase includes receiving a capability response from the first one of the FEs in response to the capability request, receiving a topology response from the first one of the FEs in response to the topology request and determining whether to transmit a start FE

operation message from the CE to the first one of the FEs based on the capability response and the topology response.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 7, 17 and 27 are further distinguished from the cited art at least because none of the cited art separately or in combination disclose or suggest that the configuration operation phase includes transmitting a configuration request from the CE to the first one of the FEs and transmitting a query request from the CE to the first one of the FEs.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the art rejections.

Applicant submits that all dependent claims now depend on allowable independent claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for withdrawing the prior art cited with regards to any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at (781) 401-9988 ext. 123. -

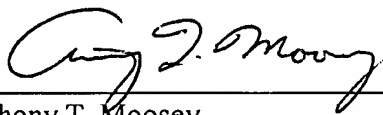
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No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0845 referencing Attorney Docket: INTEL-022PUS.

Respectfully submitted,

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